Decline in Imports

198. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether imports of 300 major items have gone down by 11 per cent as compared to the corresponding period last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is its impact on the liberalisation of the import regime?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per the provisional data available with the Government, the import of 300 sensitive items, have declined by 11% during the period April-May, 2001, compared to the same period last year. The total imports of the country during this period have declined by 3.74% and the total non oil imports during this period have declined by 6.01%. The overall picture that emerges from these quick estimates is one of normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors. The figures reveal that the removl of quantitative restrictions has not lead to any surge in imports.

Export of wheat and rice

199. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice India propose to export this year;

(b) the countries to whom these exports would be made; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) As per EXIM Policy, the export of rice (both basmati and non-basmati) is allowed freely subject to registration of contracts with APEDA. For the Year 2001-02, export of 3 million tonnes of rice has also been permitted out of the stocks of FCI. The export of wheat is allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by DGFT and issue of Registration-cum-